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To all Ophthalmic Contractors

Strategic Planning and Performance Group

12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BS

Date: 29 July 2026

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2- 9 August 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Belfast will host Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann from Sunday 2 August to Sunday 9 August 2026.

The event is expected to attract up to 800,000 visitors throughout the week resulting in increased footfall, traffic congestion and transport disruption across parts of the city. This communication is to advise that St John's Ambulance will be the dedicated medical provider for the event and they have been working with SPPG, PHA, NIAS, Belfast City Council and Belfast Trust regarding on-site medical facilities to reduce additional pressures on the HSC.

In the lead up to the Fleadh, engagement has been ongoing directly between the Traffic Management Company and any Practices/premises located within the zoned areas. However, it is expected that the significant number of visitors and associated road closures may impact on the day to day operation of Practices in and around the Greater Belfast area.

We would therefore encourage Practices to:

- Review any planned appointments and consider potential travel delays for patients and staff.
- Allow additional time for home visits where applicable.
- Ensure staff are aware of any local traffic management arrangements that may affect access to the practice.
- Consider communicating any relevant information to patients in advance where necessary.

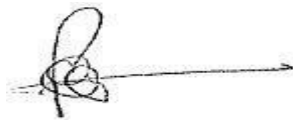
The Directorate can be contacted in the normal way should you experience any operational issues that require support or escalation.

Throughout the event, Belfast City Council, who are hosting the event, will provide updates on any changes, including traffic arrangements via the following [Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026](#) and [Fleadh .Cheoil na hÉireann – Belfast 2026](#). We recommend that practices check these regularly for the latest information and any changes that may affect service delivery.

As always, your support and co-operation in helping to ensure continuity of care during this period is appreciated.

Should you have any queries, please contact ophthalmic.services@hscni.net.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line.

Mr Raymond Curran
Assistant Director of Primary Care, Head of Ophthalmic Services
Strategic Planning and Performance Group

